

**Department of Energy & Climate
Change**

3 Whitehall Place,
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www.decc.gov.uk

15 October 2012

Our Reference: FOI 12/1328

Dear

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your freedom of information request of 17 September 2012 in which you asked the following:

"The record of any meetings held between Ed Miliband and any trade union employees, while Ed Miliband was Secretary of State at DECC between October 2008 and May 2010."

The Department now publishes quarterly lists of all DECC Ministers' meetings that involved outside interested parties. These are accessible at the following DECC website page:

<http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/registers.aspx>

However, some meetings would have been non-departmental and therefore the Department would not hold these records. Information about such meetings must be requested from Mr Miliband's parliamentary or constituency offices.

Regarding the list of Departmental meetings from the period October 2008 – October 2009 and any written records of meetings, we want to be as open as possible in answering requests, and to help people obtain the information they are looking for. However, unfortunately, in this case we are not able to provide you with a response to this because the effort to administer your request would exceed the limit prescribed in Regulations made pursuant to Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This limit is £600 and represents the estimated cost of spending 24 working hours in determining whether the Department holds such information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Where the estimated cost is above this limit, we are not obliged to comply with a request.

Therefore best way that we can help you is therefore to ask you to consider whether you could narrow down your request to focus on the precise information that you are seeking.

You could, for example be more specific about:

- which particular meeting you wish to obtain information about (using the published lists as a guide)
- which particular trade union(s) you are interested in
- any dates relevant to the information required.

If you can identify more precise questions this would help us focus the search, and we might be able to answer at less cost.

Appeals procedure

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information, you may request an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter. If you wish to request an internal review, please contact me.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,